



Thornhill Elementary Schools - Accommodation Review Committee

Minutes of ARC Public Meeting #1 held February 5, 2009, 7:00 p.m., at St. Michael Catholic Academy, 41 Simonston Boulevard, Thornhill

In attendance:

ARC Chair: Patricia Preston, Associate Director
ARC Secretary: Andy Di Sebastiano, Superintendent of Education: School Leadership

Members:

Norbert Koehl	CSC Chair	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
Sam Cuda	Parent	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
Maureen Hurley	Parent	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
Amanda Butters	Teacher	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
Tony Patriarca	Non-Teaching	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
June Buick	Principal	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
Joe Wigglesworth	CSC Chair	St. Michael Catholic Academy
Louie Gavros	Parent	St. Michael Catholic Academy
Trixie Santiago-Sorrell	Parent	St. Michael Catholic Academy
Dayna Fitzpatrick	Teacher	St. Michael Catholic Academy
Melodie Curran	Non-Teaching	St. Michael Catholic Academy
Luisa Busato	Principal	St. Michael Catholic Academy
Tracey O'Connor-Lauzon	CSC Chair	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
Diane Scaini	Parent	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
Paul Wilkie	Parent	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
Lisa Falconi	Teaching	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
Angie Della-Rovere	Non-Teaching	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
Gordon Lovgren	Principal	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
Lisa Thalassinis	Parish	Good Shepherd Parish, Thornhill
Carol Cotton	School Trustee	Markham, Area 1, Wards 1,2,3,6

ARC Facilitators:

Dan Del Bianco, Watson & Associates

ARC Resource Staff:

Bryce Eldridge, Superintendent of Plant
 Dan McCowell, York Catholic - Senior Manager, Administrative Services
 Christine Hyde, York Catholic – Planner

Administrative Support:

Silvana Greco, Administrative Assistant to the Associate Director

Recording Secretary:

Wendy Cosentino

Public Observers Signed In:

There were 39 participants signed in. Refer to Appendix A attached.

Absent: With Notice:

Father William Burns, St. Luke Parish, Thornhill
 Tom Pechkovsky, York Catholic - Manager of Planning Services
 Joe McLoughlin, York Catholic – Manager of Maintenance Services

1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held in the St. Michael Catholic Academy gymnasium, and was called to order by the ARC Chair at 7:00 p.m.

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Patricia Preston, ARC Chair, welcomed the community to the first Public Meeting of the Markham Thornhill Accommodation Review Committee (ARC). Members of the community were reminded to sign-in and note school affiliation.

At this time, the ARC Secretary and Superintendent of Education - School Leadership, Andy Di Sebastiano, was introduced.

Ms. Preston reviewed the composition of the ARC membership as mandated under Board Policy 713 which stipulates that in addition to the Superintendent of Education, each affected school under the review will have representation on the Committee. Invitations were also extended to the local parish(s) and local trustee, as well as the business community* and the local municipality*. Ms. Preston introduced the 21 voting members on the ARC which consist of:

- from each of the schools under review – St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School, St. Michael Catholic Academy and St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School:
 - Catholic School Council Chair
 - Parent Representatives (2)
 - Teacher Representative (1)
 - Non-Teaching Staff Representative (1); and
 - the School Principal
- Parish Representatives from St. Luke Catholic Church, and Good Shepherd Parish
- School Trustee for Markham, Area 1, Wards 1,2,3,6

*(Note: although the invitations extended to the business community and local municipality were received and welcomed, both parties sent regrets and indicated they were unable to accept or name a designate at this point in time.)

The ARC Chair introduced the York Catholic District School Board, Resource staff in attendance. Board Resource staff are not voting members of the ARC, but rather act as a resource to the Committee on Board policy and operations pertaining to Plant, Planning, and Business and Administrative Services. Ms. Preston also introduced the ARC facilitator in attendance from Watson & Associates.

3. OVERVIEW

Ms. Preston provided a brief overview on the establishment and mandate of the ARC in accordance with *Board Policy 713, Pupil Accommodation Review*, passed June 17, 2008. Board Policy 713 was established to meet the requirements of the Ministry of Education, Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines. The Pupil Accommodation Review is a consultative process, which requires the formation of an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC).

The ARC Chair clarified that the School Board has not yet made any accommodation decisions regarding the schools under review and all decisions will be made with the full involvement of the school communities. Ms. Preston stressed that the School Board and the ARC are committed to maintaining the integrity of educational programming for Thornhill Elementary students.

The ARC will have approximately 13 ARC working meetings during the accommodation review process. In accordance with *Board Policy 713, Pupil Accommodation Review, Section 2, Item 2.4, Meetings of the ARC*, the ARC will also host 4 public meetings. The public meetings will provide the

community with an opportunity to provide input, ask questions and/or comment on the work of the ARC as it progresses through the review process. The ARC will submit its final report with recommendations to the Director of Education in June, 2009.

The purpose of Public Meeting #1 is to present the issues to be addressed and afford an opportunity for community input on the ARC's customized School Valuation Framework.

Public Meeting #1 – Community Information Folder:

An information package was distributed to help familiarize the community on the accommodation review process. Contents included the following documents:

- *Public Meeting #1 – Agenda*
- *Thornhill Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) Flowchart – Process & Timelines*
- *PowerPoint Presentation: Thornhill Accommodation Review – February 5, 2009*
- *Thornhill ARC School Boundaries & Surrounding Area*
- *Thornhill ARC School Valuation Framework: Elementary*
- *ARC Public Meeting #1 – Feedback Sheet*

The community was encouraged to submit feedback and/or comments on the ARC Public Meeting #1 Feedback Sheet distributed as part of the information package.

School Valuation Framework:

The ARC Chair spoke to the School Valuation Framework to be presented by the ARC. Under the Ministry of Education, Pupil Accommodation Guidelines, school valuation is the focus of the pupil accommodation review process. School Boards are required to develop a generic School Valuation Framework to be used to assess a school or group of schools being studied. It is the mandate of the ARC to customize the generic framework by adding question(s) or value(s) that they determine to be significant to the valuation process.

In accordance with *Board Policy 713, Section 2, Establishing an Accommodation Review Committee, Item 2.1, Mandate of the ARC*, the ARC has held 4 working meetings to date to customize the generic School Valuation Framework for the 3 Thornhill Markham Elementary Schools under review – St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School, St. Michael Catholic Academy, and St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School. The Framework has been customized based on the 4 values set out by the Ministry of Education – the value of the schools to each of the School Board (2.1 – 2.21), local Economy (3.1 – 3.2), Community (4.1 – 4.18), but most importantly to the Student (1.1 – 1.43).

The community was invited to visit kiosks that were stationed in the gym and based on the 4 valuation categories. The School Valuation Framework was posted specific to each category with the questions determined and included by the ARC highlighted to differentiate from those set out in the generic School Valuation Framework. ARC members along with Board resource were available at each kiosk to answer questions on the Framework. Those in attendance were encouraged to give their input using the Public Meeting Feedback Form and/or speak to the ARC members.

The ARC Chair indicated that all questions/comments received on the School Valuation Framework will be presented to the ARC for their consideration at the next working meeting (Working Meeting #4, February 19, 2009). Questions/comments received not specific to the School Valuation Framework but to the ARC process, will be recognized and presented to the Committee for review at the next working meeting; responses will be posted to the ARC website thereafter.

At this point in the meeting, the ARC Chair welcomed Dan McCowell, Senior Manager of Administrative Services, to provide further background on the accommodation review process and to speak to the materials distributed in the community information package.

Items highlighted for discussion included:

- a PowerPoint presentation - *Thornhill Accommodation Review, February 5, 2009* – which provided an outline of the purpose for and specifics of the accommodation review process; and
- the *Thornhill Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) Flowchart – Process & Timelines*, with step by step breakdown of the review process and timelines set for completion

Mr. McCowell stressed, that as stated by the ARC Chair, no accommodation decisions regarding the schools under review have been made. The accommodation review was initiated as a result of a Ministry of Education funding opportunity; however, it is a multi-step process, which is governed by Board policy. Following completion of the review process and receipt of the ARC final report, the Board will be required to seek Ministry of Education final approval to access the funding available.

Teams from each of the 3 school communities will be required to complete the School Valuation Framework for each school. The information gathered will be consolidated and the ARC will bring back the Framework for presentation at Public Meeting #2. This will provide an opportunity for community input on the completed School Valuation Framework based on the answers given by the ARC. Alternative accommodation options proposed by the ARC following valuation of the schools will be presented for community input at Public Meeting #3.

Mr. McCowell encouraged guests to visit each of the 4 kiosks and provide feedback on the School Valuation Framework to ensure that the ARC has been given a sense of what type of information the community deems important in order to value the schools. Feedback sheets, part of the information package distributed, were also made available at each of the 4 kiosks as well as the Feedback Station located beside the community sign-in table. It was requested that completed Feedback Sheets be handed in to any of the ARC members on site or at the community sign-in table before the end of the meeting, and/or dropped off at any of the 3 schools under review by February 9, 2009.

The community was also reminded that general comments and/or questions can be sent to the ARC at any time during the review process through e-mail at arcthornhill@ycdsb.ca or voice-mail at 416-221-5051, 905-713-1211, Ext 7567. Information pertinent to the ARC, including minutes and agenda along with questions asked and responses given, can be viewed on the Board website at www.ycdsb.ca. The community information package distributed at the meeting can be found posted on the website under Public Meeting #1.

A number of questions/request for information were made verbally before the group dispersed to the information kiosks; the following represents responses offered in general by Board staff:

Q: Where does it say that the Arts program will be maintained?

A: The School Board and the ARC are committed to maintaining the integrity of all educational programming for Thornhill Elementary students (please visit ARC website to see letter to the 3 school communities in the Fall of 2008, and most recently, in letter of January 15, 2009, posted under ARC Notices).

Q: Why has St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School been included in the ARC process when they were not part of the original Board proposal?

A: St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School has been included in the accommodation review because it is located geographically within the area of the review; although the funding being proposed by the Ministry of Education has not been cited for this school, being located within the area of the review may have some impact in terms of accommodation options such as boundary changes, etc.



Q: Has the Board made any decision(s) related to the schools in the review area?

A: The School Board has not done any research to date on accommodation options.

Q: Is the boundary for St. Michael correct?

A: The boundaries for St. Michael Catholic Academy as shown on the map of the *Thornhill ARC School Boundaries & Surrounding Area* distributed in the Public Meeting #1 information package, are accurate. In terms of the Arts program being considered a regional program, students can be considered for admission out of area on a TCH 19 application.

ADJOURNMENT

Kiosks were open for visitation from 7:40 to 9:00 p.m. The meeting concluded at that time.

**Thornhill Elementary Schools - Accommodation Review Committee
 Public Meeting #1 – February 5, 2009
 Community Sign-In**

	Name	Affiliation (Area School)
1.	H. Durham	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
2.	M. Chisholm	St. Michael Catholic Academy
3.	T. Huang	St. Michael Catholic Academy
4.	A. Fitzpatrick	St. Michael Catholic Academy
5.	R. Fitzpatrick	St. Michael Catholic Academy
6.	V. Ng	St. Michael Catholic Academy
7.	L. Du	St. Michael Catholic Academy
8.	H.C. Rodrigues	St. Michael Catholic Academy
9.	S. Chan	St. Michael Catholic Academy
10.	L. Mahoy	St. Michael Catholic Academy
11.	A. Vyn	St. Michael Catholic Academy
12.	B. Vottero	St. Michael Catholic Academy
13.	B. Bernard	St. Michael Catholic Academy
14.	J. Hum	St. Michael Catholic Academy
15.	E. Balint	St. Michael Catholic Academy
16.	R. Levins	St. Michael Catholic Academy
17.	N. Axford	St. Michael Catholic Academy
18.	B. Scott	St. Michael Catholic Academy
19.	J. Scott	St. Michael Catholic Academy
20.	A. Ulahannan	St. Luke
21.	V. Burke	Markham Councillor, Ward 1
22.	R. Moser	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
23.	C. Schwade	St. Michael Catholic Academy
24.	L. Maerov	Upper Canada Child Care
25.	N. Watters	St. Michael Catholic Academy
26.	D. Andrade	St. Michael Catholic Academy
27.	A. Pickering	St. Michael Catholic Academy
28.	C. Stevens	Christ the King
29.	C. Mason	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
30.	E. Pissavis	St. Michael Catholic Academy
31.	A. Stobie	St. Michael Catholic Academy
32.	S. Koth	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
33.	J. Kwan	St. Michael Catholic Academy
34.	M. Chen	St. Michael Catholic Academy
35.	M. Palaganas	St. Michael Catholic Academy
36.	C. Reynolds	St. Michael Catholic Academy
37.	K. Trantafillate	St. Michael Catholic Academy
38.	D. Chateau	St. Michael Catholic Academy
39.	R. Chateau	St. Michael Catholic Academy